

Large Print guide

2025 Banner Exhibition

Gallery One

Text size: 14pt



This guide contains:

- Gallery directions to locate each banner displayed within Gallery One.
- Large print of the banner labels within Gallery One.
- Short descriptions of the banners and images within Gallery One.

Large Print exhibition guides in 18pt and 24pt text versions, magnifiers and colour overlays are also available.

Please ask a staff member if you need any further assistance

Gallery One

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The banners displayed in the 2025 Banner Exhibition are displayed in Gallery One and Gallery Two. The galleries are made up of colour coded zones covering different themes. In our gallery directions, we will refer to these zones to help you locate the banners.

This guide follows the order of the displays within Gallery One.

When you have finished using this guide, please return it or give it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Please share with us any feedback on this resource. You can email access@phm.org.uk or share your feedback with a member of staff.

Blue Workers Zone

[Gallery directions]

Enter Gallery One by the entrance doors on the left. Once inside, make your way around the People Power sculpture and the Mini Theatre to the blue Workers zone. The Tobacco Workers' Union banner is located to the right of the section about the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Tobacco Workers' Union banner, around 1960

The Friendly Society of Operative Tobacconists was a craft union established in 1834. The union was originally an all-male group of skilled craftsmen.

In 1918, a decision was made to make the union an industrial union for all tobacco workers regardless of occupation or gender.

This was implemented in 1925 and it was renamed the Tobacco Workers' Union. Women were recruited to the union in large numbers during World War II and became most of the total membership.

Materials: Cotton twill fabric with appliqué design, machine embroidery and synthetic fringe.

Dimensions: 590mm wide x 950mm high

[Banner description]

Shield shaped red banner with a central image of two brown and white tobacco leaves on a white background. The words 'Founded 1834' are in black below the leaves. The words 'TOBACCO WORKERS' UNION' are in white bold lettering on the red background of the banner, and there are two stickers either side of the central image, which say 'I love NHS' in black on a white background. A red heart is used on each sticker to denote the word love. The bottom of the banner has yellowy brown tassels displayed below a white stripe.

Did you know?

2024 is the 40th anniversary of the Miners' Strike of 1984 to 1985. This was a major industrial dispute between the UK government and the National Union of Mineworkers, over colliery closures and job losses. This archive image shows Glasgow union members giving miners' families food during the strike.

[Image description of photograph on label]

Black and white photograph of several union members distributing food out of a white van to a crowd of families. A few central family members are holding plastic wrapped cases of tinned food. Some of the union members are resting on a large box that has the words 'Kellogg's CORN FLAKES' on it.

[Image credit]

Glasgow tobacco workers bring food for miners' families, 1985. Image courtesy of The Tobacco Workers' Union.

[Gallery directions]

With the Tobacco Workers' Union banner in front of you, turn left and head round the corner. National Union Of Railwaymen, Hither Green branch banner is the first banner on your right. The banner is double sided and both sides are on display. You can head through the gap between the displays on the left to see the other side or come back to this afterwards.

National Union Of Railwaymen, Hither Green branch banner, around 1917

The National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) was formed in 1913 when three unions; the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, the United Pointsmen's and Signalmen's Society, and the General Railway Workers' Union joined together.

Most trade unions supported the First World War. The unions agreed to ban all strikes during the period, and many union leaders helped to recruit workers across the country to help the war effort.

One side of this banner shows London's Paddington station during the war. The regiments depicted represent the 45,000 railway workers who had signed up by December 1914.

Materials: Ground of green silk with red silk borders.
Painted on both sides with oil paint.

Dimensions: 3,074mm wide x 2,616mm high

[Banner description]

A double-sided landscape banner. Both sides have a red border along the left, right and bottom edge of the banner. The bottom edge has a red and green tasselled fringe. The banner is hung on a pole using a white sleeve.

The central image on both sides is framed by an elaborate decorative white and grey design. It is made up of flowers, leaves, spanners and other tools. The top part of the pattern incorporates a simplified bridge and train design.

The top of both sides of the banner features an illustrated scroll of red ribbon with the words 'NATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYMEN' in gold letters. At the bottom is a green and white scroll with 'HITHER GREEN BRANCH' in black letters. Below is a much smaller white and red scroll with 'No. 537' in black.

[Front]

The central image is a painting of a domestic scene. The room has an old-fashioned stove and shelving with plates and cups. In the foreground three figures are standing around a table. On the left is a young boy and a woman holding a baby. The boy is wearing a khaki shirt and shorts and a brown neck scarf. The woman is wearing a light blue blouse and apron.

On the right side of the table is a man wearing a greyish blue suit and decorated blue sash. He is placing a piece of paper on the table and has rested his open brown case on a wooden chair next to him. The case has 'NUR' in black lettering on the side.

In the background, a young girl in a pink dress stands on a chair to reach a jug.

[Reverse]

The central painted image is of a busy train station, complete with multiple platforms and train carriages. People are engaged in various activities, loading equipment, carrying luggage, while others appear to be conversing, creating a sense of bustle typical of a busy station. Several figures are in period military uniform. The architecture within the scene features high, arched ceilings with large windows.

Did you know?

Around 180,000 railway workers joined up during the First World War; around 20,000 of them lost their lives.

[Gallery directions]

With the NUR banner on your right, continue straight, further into the Workers zone. Here there are two banners. The banner on your left is the GCHQ banner and the banner on your right is the Wimbledon NUR Women's Guild banner.

GCHQ banner, 1992

Designed and made by Sean Cusack

In 1984, Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government put a total ban on trade union membership for workers at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

The government believed union membership was a threat to national security.

By November 1988, the ongoing dispute would lead to the dismissal of 14 workers who refused to give up their membership. This banner was made in 1992 to commemorate those who lost their jobs. It was used at marches and demonstrations as part of GCHQ workers' campaign against the ban, which was finally lifted in May 1997.

Materials: Ground of single layer of plain woven black cotton. The central panel has been hand painted and sewn onto the banner by machine.

Dimensions: 1,340mm wide x 1,930mm high

[Banner description]

A portrait black banner with bold yellow lettering at the top that spells 'GCHQ'. At the bottom of the banner is smaller yellow lettering that reads 'TRADE UNIONS'. Between the two words is a diagonal white stripe with the word 'SACKED' in black.

At the centre of the banner is a light blue square. In the square is a yellow satellite dish logo with 14 diagonal stripes coming out of it. Each stripe has a name on it, they are either red, green or blue. The names are 'ROBIN SMITH', 'GARETH MORRIS', 'ROY TAYLOR', 'CLIVE LLOYD', 'JOHN COOK', 'ALAN CHAMBERS', 'HARRY UNDERWOOD', 'BILL BICKHAM', 'DEE GODDARD', 'GERRY O' HAGAN',

'ALAN ROWLAND', 'GRAHAM HUGHES',
'MIKE GRINDLEY', 'BRIAN JOHNSON'.

Did you know?

The dispute at GCHQ is the longest in modern trade union history, lasting over 13 years.

Wimbledon NUR Womens Guild banner, 1923

Made by Mrs C Mathews

The Railway Women's Guild was first established in 1900, for the wives and daughters of railway union members.

It was largely set up as a social organisation but it would play an important political role supporting the union and the wider railway community. Support ranged from fundraising for the orphaned, sick, and unemployed to helping with the organisation of strike action and industrial disputes.

In 1906, members of the guild helped found the Women's Labour League, which campaigned for women's suffrage and later became the women's section of the Labour Party.

Materials: Banner of red moiré silk rep, hand embroidered and lined with beige cotton sateen.

Dimensions: 558mm wide x 1,041mm high

[Banner description]

A shield shaped red silk banner with gold trim around the edges and a gold fringe at the bottom. The banner design is mainly made up of hand embroidered gold lettering that reads 'WIMBLEDON NUR WOMENS GUILD 1923'. Under the lettering is an embroidered bunch of small white flowers, which are tied together with a small yellow bow.

Did you know?

In 1915 women were allowed to join the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) as union members for first time, as many were recruited to replace men joining the war effort.

[Gallery directions]

With the GCHQ banner on your left, turn left and head through the gap between the displays. The reverse of the NUR banner is on your right. Straight ahead, behind the table with the interactive game, is The Fabric of Protest garment workers' rights banner.

The Fabric of Protest garment workers' rights banner, 2022

This banner was created by The Fabric of Protest workshop participants between 2020 and 2022 in response to People's History Museum's programme of activity exploring migration, with a focus on the impact of the garment trade globally.

Using a patchwork technique the banner is made up of individual pieces stitched together, to bring together voices of protest supporting the call for fair pay and conditions for workers in the fashion industry.

Materials: Cotton and mixed synthetic, printed, and applied work.

Dimensions: 1,500mm wide x 1,000mm high

[Banner description]

A colourful landscape banner made up of 24 squares arranged in a grid format. Each square is different using an assortment of colours, textures and patterns. Some are silky, others are fluffy.

Many of them have symbols or words stitched on to them. These include the slogans 'I'M cheap' and 'STOP SAND BLASTING JEANS'. Four of the squares utilise the hazard triangle in their designs. One has a pink skull on a black triangle framed in orange. The yellow words 'TOXIC', 'CHEMICALS', 'DYE' run along each side of a triangle against the square's shiny purple background.

One square shows a cartoonish illustration of the upper bodies of three people, two are holding placards. The placards read '#PAY UP' and 'stop union busting'. Three squares have 'FABRIC OF PROTEST' printed inside a diamond design. Each white diamond is on a different coloured background.

Did you know?

This banner was used during Fashion Revolution Week in May 2023. The Fabric of Protest workshop participants were involved in events organised by Stitched Up UK, a grassroots organisation inspiring action on sustainable fashion. This included mending activism on Market Street in central Manchester, a demonstration on the anniversary of Bangladesh's Rana Plaza garment factory

disaster, and the banner going on display as part of an exhibition in Stretford, Greater Manchester.

Fashion Revolution is a global movement of people working towards a fashion industry that conserves and restores the environment and values people over growth and profit.

[Image description of photograph on label]

A group of people standing together, holding a colourful patchwork banner. The people are dressed in a mix of casual clothing, with some holding placards. The scene is set outdoors, there is a cobblestone path, with greenery and wooden structures in the background.

[Image credit]

Photograph of The Fabric of Protest banner at a protest in Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester, 2023. Image courtesy of Stitched Up UK.

Purple Voters Zone

[Gallery directions]

With The Fabric of Protest garment workers' rights banner, on your right, head into the purple Voters zone. Turning right, the poster 'The Glutton! The Budget League' is on the wall to your left.

The Glutton! The Budget League poster, 1909

The Budget League was a pressure group aligned to the Liberal Party. It campaigned for the 'People's Budget' to be passed into law after the House of Lords blocked it.

The budget proposed by Chancellor of the Exchequer of the time, David Lloyd George, included a programme of welfare reforms to combat growing poverty and inequality. The reforms were to be funded by an increase in tax on the wealthiest and a land value tax.

The 'People's Budget' was passed in April 1910 by a Liberal coalition government formed following the January 1910 general election.

The poster depicts 'The House Of Lords' and 'The People' as babies. Despite having sufficient milk of their own, the Lords steal the milk from the smaller, somewhat under-nourished people.

Materials: Colour lithographic print.

Dimensions: 758mm wide x 1,016mm high

[Poster description]

A yellow poster with bold black lettering at the top, which reads 'THE BUDGET LEAGUE.' At the bottom of the poster 'THE GLUTTON!' is printed in much larger black letters.

In the middle of the poster is a cartoon illustration of two babies. They are sitting with their bare feet in front of them.

The baby on the left is much larger than the other. It has a round pink face and is wearing a blue gown with frilly white trim. On its head is a gold crown with white fur trim and a red cloth top.

Around its waist is a green sash with 'THE HOUSE of LORDS' written on it in white. In its hands is a large, rounded milk bottle with an attached tube and teat. In its mouth is the teat from the other baby's smaller bottle, which is almost empty.

The baby on the right is much smaller; it is wearing a brown gown with frilly white trim. Around its waist is a red sash with white writing that reads 'THE PEOPLE'. On the top of its head is a tuft of ginger hair and its mouth is wide open, and tears are running down its cheeks.

Did you know?

The Budget League was formed by future Prime Minister Winston Churchill who was a Member of Parliament for the Liberal Party at the time.

[Gallery directions]

With the The Glutton! The Budget League poster on your left, Ye Old Trafford Habitation Primrose League banner is straight ahead of you.

Ye Old Trafford Habitation Primrose League banner, around 1900

This banner belonged to the Old Trafford branch of the Primrose League.

The Primrose League was a grassroots Conservative organisation founded in 1883 by Lord Randolph Churchill and a group of like-minded Tories. They were inspired by the popular conservatism of former Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, who had died just two years before.

The league made important progress in broadening the Conservative Party's appeal and engaging with middle and working class voters.

It also attracted women and younger members by offering popular activities such as dances, summer fêtes, and day trips. The Primrose League had over two million members by 1910, almost half of them were women.

Materials: Damask woven fabric, probably viscose rayon. First produced in 1889, rayon was one of the earliest human-made textile fibres. Machine embroidered in silk.

Dimensions: 900mm wide x 1,600mm high

[Banner description]

A shield shaped banner. It is light brown with gold trim around the edges and a slightly darker gold fringe at the bottom

The banner is covered in an embroidered pattern of small yellow flowers and golden brown leaves.

In the top right corner is a white shield with a crown above it. Inside the shield is a red rose. In the bottom left corner is another white shield with a crown above it. Inside this shield is a red

dragon. Across the middle of the banner is a golden orange strip with 'YE OLD TRAFFORD HABITATION' written across it in a black font.

Did you know?

The Primrose League took its name from what was said to be Disraeli's favourite flower. He regularly received primroses from Queen Victoria, and she sent a whole bouquet to his funeral.

[Gallery directions]

With the Ye Old Trafford Habitation Primrose League banner on your left, head straight and in front of you is the Fakenham Labour Party banner.

Fakenham Labour Party banner, 1987

In the centre of the banner is a red rose, the symbol of the Labour Party from 1986. It was introduced as part of an attempt to improve the image of the Labour Party under the leadership of Neil Kinnock.

The Labour Party's first logo combined a quill, torch, and shovel symbolising its connection with the working class.

The Norfolk parliamentary constituency that includes Fakenham has not had a Labour Party MP since 1970.

Materials: Plain woven cotton canvas fabric with applied lettering and rose.

Dimensions: 1,110mm wide x 1,140mm high

[Banner description]

A short shield shaped banner, it is bright red with a cream fringe at the bottom. In the centre of the banner is a dark red rose with a green stem.

The design has been cut out of material and attached to the banner. At the top of the banner is yellow lettering that spells out 'FAKENHAM'. At the bottom of the banner, in similar but slightly smaller lettering, are the words 'LABOUR PARTY'. Both sets of letters slightly curve around the central design.

Did you know?

In 2022, the Scottish Labour Party dropped the rose in its logo replacing it with the thistle. The red rose has long been associated with England. The change was an attempt to reinforce the party's Scottish identity and combat the popularity of the Scottish National Party.

[Gallery directions]

From the Fakenham Labour Party banner, turn right and take an immediate left in front of the Mini Theatre into the Votes for Women section. Redhill Women's Co-operative Guild banner is on your right opposite Hannah Mitchell's kitchen, above the display case.

Redhill Women's Co-operative Guild banner, around 1900

The Women's Co-operative Guild was established in 1883. It soon moved beyond its original objectives of better representation for women and spreading the co-operative message in the community.

In the first part of the 20th century, the guild became increasingly politically active. They campaigned on important issues including provision of birth control, maternity benefits, nursery schools, and family allowances.

They were also very active in the women's suffrage movement and continued to campaign until voting equality was finally achieved in 1928.

Materials: Single sided banner. Ground and lining of black twill woven cotton with oil painted design. Twill refers to the type of weave used; it forms a diagonal structure, which is quite durable and used for fabrics such as denim.

Dimensions: 660mm wide x 990mm high

[Banner description]

A black rectangular banner with gold trim around the edges and a gold fringe at the bottom. The hand painted design includes a rainbow at the top. Just below that, is a yellow decorative scroll with the words 'REDHILL WOMEN'S Co-oPERATIVE GUILD' in red letters.

In the centre of the banner is the number '1900' in red with a white outline. In the bottom left corner is a white rose, opposite it on the right side is a yellow wheatsheaf, which incorporates a zigzagging ribbon design and includes the phrase 'LABOUR AND WAIT'.

Did you know?

The Women's Co-operative Guild has a long history of campaigning against war. In 1933, they were the first to produce the white poppy as a symbol of peace and an alternative to the British Legion's red poppy.

[Gallery directions]

With the Redhill Women's Co-operative Guild banner on your right, head straight towards the Workers at Work, 1914-1918 section. Turn left and the Preston Lasses Mun Hev The Vote banner, is on your right.

Preston Lasses Mun Hev The Vote banner, 1992

Designed by Katherine Walker

This banner was made for the Pieces of History community arts project in Preston. The project celebrated the lives and achievements of Preston women through the production of quilts and banners.

This banner is based on a painting from around 1906 to 1908 called 'The Half-Timer' by Preston artist and suffragist Patti Mayor.

The portrait is of 12 year old Annie Hill, who spent half of each day working at a mill and the other half of the day at school.

In 1908, Patti carried the painting alongside the slogan 'Preston Lasses Mun Hev The Vote' at a suffragette march in Hyde Park, London.

Materials: Plain woven cotton fabric with hand painted image in unidentified paint media. Machine stitching through internal wadding creates the quilted effect.

Dimensions: 1,520mm wide x 1,920mm high

[Banner description]

A portrait rectangle banner. The central painted image is framed by a series of pastel coloured borders, the inner border is purple, the next is yellow and the outer border is green. Above the central image on a dark strip are the words 'PRESTON.LASSES.MUN.HEV.THE.VOTE' in yellow letters

The central image shows a figure dressed in a long, flowing green robe, with a brown shawl over its head and shoulders.

The head is tilted, and the face has a down cast expression.

The figure is holding a blue flask and stands in front of a backdrop of stylised buildings. These include smoking chimney stacks silhouetted against an orange sky.

The bottom half of the background is filled with oval disembodied heads they are painted in yellow and green tones with simplified features

Did you know?

This banner was made in tribute to Edith Rigby and the Preston suffragettes. Edith founded the Preston branch of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1907. She was arrested on a number of occasions for taking part in militant action, including planting a bomb in the Liverpool Corn Exchange.

[Gallery directions]

With the Preston Lassies Mun Hev The Vote banner on your right, turn immediately left into the Post War section then turn right at the Arthur Henderson bust into the Communists section. Immediately on your right is the To the English delegation of the trade unions banner.

To the English delegation of the trade unions banner, 1920s

This banner was given to delegates of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) by coal miners from Donbass in the Soviet Union. In the 1920s, British TUC delegates travelled to factories in the USSR to encourage international unity. Banners such as this one were given as gifts to these delegations.

Materials: Red fulled wool fabric with gold painted text and images. Fulling is a process similar to felting which makes wool thicker and more resistant to water. It is also used for military uniforms.

Dimensions: 870mm wide x 1335mm high

[Banner description]

A red portrait banner with a gold design and text.

The image at the top of the banner shows two figures drawn in a gold outline. They are facing each other on opposite sides of the banner. Between them, they are holding a long thin banner written on it are words in a Russian script.

The figures are dressed slightly differently, the one on the left is wearing a cap and the other a helmet. Both have a lamp around their necks, and both are holding a pickaxe, the axe head is resting on the ground.

At the top of the banner in a central position is a five pointed gold star.

Below the figures are numerous lines of gold Russian text which take up three quarters of the banner.

Did you know?

In 1920 members of the TUC and Labour Party took part in one of the first visits to the USSR since the Russian revolution. They had travelled there as part of an 'independent and impartial inquiry into the industrial, political and economic conditions in Russia'.

The delegation included leading figures from the labour movement, Ben Turner, Margaret Bondfield, Albert Arthur Purcell, and the philosopher Bertrand Russell who was there as a journalist. They met with leading Communists, including Lenin and Trotsky and some of the regime's political opponents.

[Gallery directions]

With the To the English delegation of the trade unions banner behind you, the Printers Send Greetings To Bill Alexander banner is facing you on the opposite wall.

Printers Send Greetings To Bill Alexander banner, around 1937

Bill Alexander was a Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) member who volunteered for the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War.

He arrived in Spain in 1937. He quickly rose through the ranks to become the Commander of the British Battalion in January 1938. Just a month later, he was injured and sent home to England, where he continued to raise awareness of the plight of the Spanish people.

Banners like this were sometimes sent to those fighting on the front line to show support. Bill Alexander belonged to a print workers' union, so it is likely this banner was sent to him during his time in Spain from his colleagues back home.

Materials: White plain woven filled cotton, hand sewn white cotton loops. Design hand painted with water based paint.

Dimensions: 1,740mm wide x 1,346mm high

[Banner description]

An off-white landscape banner with black and red text.

The top line is in the largest font it reads 'PRINTERS' in bold black letters with wisps of light blue paint behind it.

The second line is in red and uses two different fonts one cursive and the other bold, it reads 'Send GREETINGS'

The next two lines are in black and use smaller lettering 'TO BILL ALEXANDER' and just below that on the right '(PAPERWORKERS)' in smaller italics.

The last two lines are in red and read 'MAJOR ATTLEE-BATTALION' 'INT. BRIGADE'.

What do our Conservators say?

We all change our minds sometimes. Can you see the pencil lines, which reveal the banner maker's original design?

[Gallery directions]

Turning and heading out of the Communists section, turn left back towards the Preston Lasses Mun Hev The Vote banner. From here, turn left and head right, around the corner. On your right is the Homeless Action Campaign banner.

Homeless Action Campaign banner, 1940s

It is likely that this banner was made by the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) to show its support for the squatters' movement that was born out of Britain's housing crisis at the end of the Second World War.

The movement reached its peak in the summer of 1946. It involved tens of thousands of people, mainly ex-servicemen and their families who found themselves homeless. In an act of civil disobedience, they moved into empty military camps around Britain.

By early September 1946 the squatters had also spread to hotels and empty flats.

Materials: Acrylic painted plain weave cotton.

Dimensions: 2,565mm wide x 863mm high

[Banner description]

A wide landscape banner. The banner is made from yellow material and is covered in light brown marks and staining. The left side has the words 'HOMELESS ACTION CAMPAIGN' hand painted in black.

The slanted bold font conveys movement. On the right side of the banner 'land for people not profit' is painted in a black lower case font. The irregular lettering is arranged at angles around one side of black triangle. Just below the word profit is a tiny black hammer.

What do our Conservators say?

Conservation isn't all about cleaning – sometimes the dirt and stains tell a story as well. Here you can see that long display and use has left lots of different types of staining over the whole banner.